

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 1, 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Kashimoto* (U.S. Patent No. 5,844,645).

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kashimoto*.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Fukutani et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,132,830).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended claim 1 and added new claims 18-20 by this amendment. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are pending and claims 5-17 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because the phrase "substantially absent" as recited in claim 1 is allegedly unclear and indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 1 by this Amendment. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended, fully complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, the Examiner's consideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a) over Kashimoto

Claims 1, 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Kashimoto*. Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kashimoto*. To the extent that these rejections might be applied to the claims as newly-amended, they are respectfully traversed as follows.

Applicants respectfully submit that *Kashimoto* does not anticipate the present claimed invention or render the present claimed invention unpatentable because *Kashimoto* does not teach or suggest all of the features of the claimed invention. For instance, it is respectfully submitted that *Kashimoto* fails to teach or suggest at least the claimed combination including “a light-shielding layer on the second substrate except regions corresponding to the thin film transistors and pixel electrodes, and a region where the sealant attaches to the second substrate,” as set forth in independent claim 1, as newly-amended.

In the rejection, the Office Action appears to allege that the black matrix (22) taught by *Kashimoto* corresponds to the light-shielding layer as set forth in claim 1. However, in contrast to the claimed invention as a whole, *Kashimoto*’s black matrix (22) is formed in the display area (15). See, for example, FIG. 4 of *Kashimoto*. In fact, no portion of *Kashimoto*’s disclosure appears to discuss forming a light-shielding layer on a second substrate except regions corresponding to thin film transistors and pixel electrodes, and a region where a sealant attaches to the second substrate. Thus, it is respectfully *Kashimoto* fails to teach or suggest at least the claimed combination including “a light-shielding layer on the second substrate except regions

corresponding to the thin film transistors and pixel electrodes, and a region where the sealant attaches to the second substrate,” as set forth in independent claim 1, as newly-amended.

MPEP §2131 states “[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim.” Applicants respectfully submit that since *Kashimoto* does not teach or suggest all of the features of claim 1, *Kashimoto* does not anticipate independent claim 1. Further, since claims 2-4 depend from claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that *Kashimoto* also does not anticipate claims 3-4 or render claim 2 unpatentable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fukutani et al.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Fukutani et al.* To the extent that this rejection might be applied to the claims as newly-amended, it is respectfully traversed as follows.

Applicants respectfully submit that *Fukutani et al.* does not render the present claimed invention unpatentable because *Fukutani et al.* does not teach or suggest all of the features of the claimed invention. For instance, it is respectfully submitted that *Fukutani et al.* fails to teach or suggest at least the claimed combination including “a light-shielding layer on the second substrate except regions corresponding to the thin film transistors and pixel electrodes, and a region where the sealant attaches to the second substrate,” as set forth in independent claim 1, as newly-amended.

In the rejection, the Office Action appears to allege that the light-blocking layer (BL) taught by *Fukutani et al.* corresponds to the light-shielding layer as set forth in claim 1. However, in contrast to the claimed invention as a whole, *Fukutani et al.*'s light-blocking layer (BL) is formed merely between all of the color filters (R, G and B). See, column 6, lines 3-6 of *Fukutani et al.* In fact, no portion of *Fukutani et al.*'s disclosure appears to discuss forming a light-shielding layer on a second substrate except regions corresponding to thin film transistors and pixel electrodes, and a region where a sealant attaches to the second substrate. Thus, it is respectfully *Fukutani et al.* fails to teach or suggest at least the claimed combinations including "a light-shielding layer on the second substrate except regions corresponding to the thin film transistors and pixel electrodes, and a region where the sealant attaches to the second substrate," as set forth in independent claim 1, as newly-amended.

Applicants respectfully submit that since *Fukutani et al.* does not teach or suggest all of the features of claim 1, *Fukutani et al.* does not render claim 1 unpatentable. Further, since claims 2-4 depend from claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that *Fukutani et al.* does not render claims 2-4 unpatentable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Fukutani et al.* is respectfully requested.

New Claims 18-20

Applicants have added new claims 18-20 to further define the invention. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 18-20 are allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited. Should there remain any questions or comments regarding this response or the application in general, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

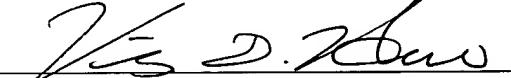
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 15, 2002

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows.

1. (Amended) A liquid crystal display (LCD) panel comprising:
 - first and second substrates;
 - an active region on the first substrate, the active region including a plurality of thin film transistors and pixel electrodes;
 - a sealing region along a periphery of the active region and along a corresponding region of the second substrate;
 - sealant in the sealing region, the sealant attaching the first substrate and the second substrate to one another and maintaining a gap therebetween;
 - a light-shielding layer on the second substrate except regions corresponding to the thin film transistors and pixel electrodes, and [, the light-shielding layer substantially absent in the sealing] a region [at least] where the sealant attaches to the second substrate; and
 - a liquid crystal layer within the gap and on the active region side of the sealant.

Claims 18-20 have been newly added.